

INTERMISSION

NAKAMACHI CIRCUS - "WHAT TO DO?"





THAT MIGHT
TURN OUT
TO BE A
PROBLEM.

IT'S TRUE
THE PARK
ISN'T THAT
BIG...

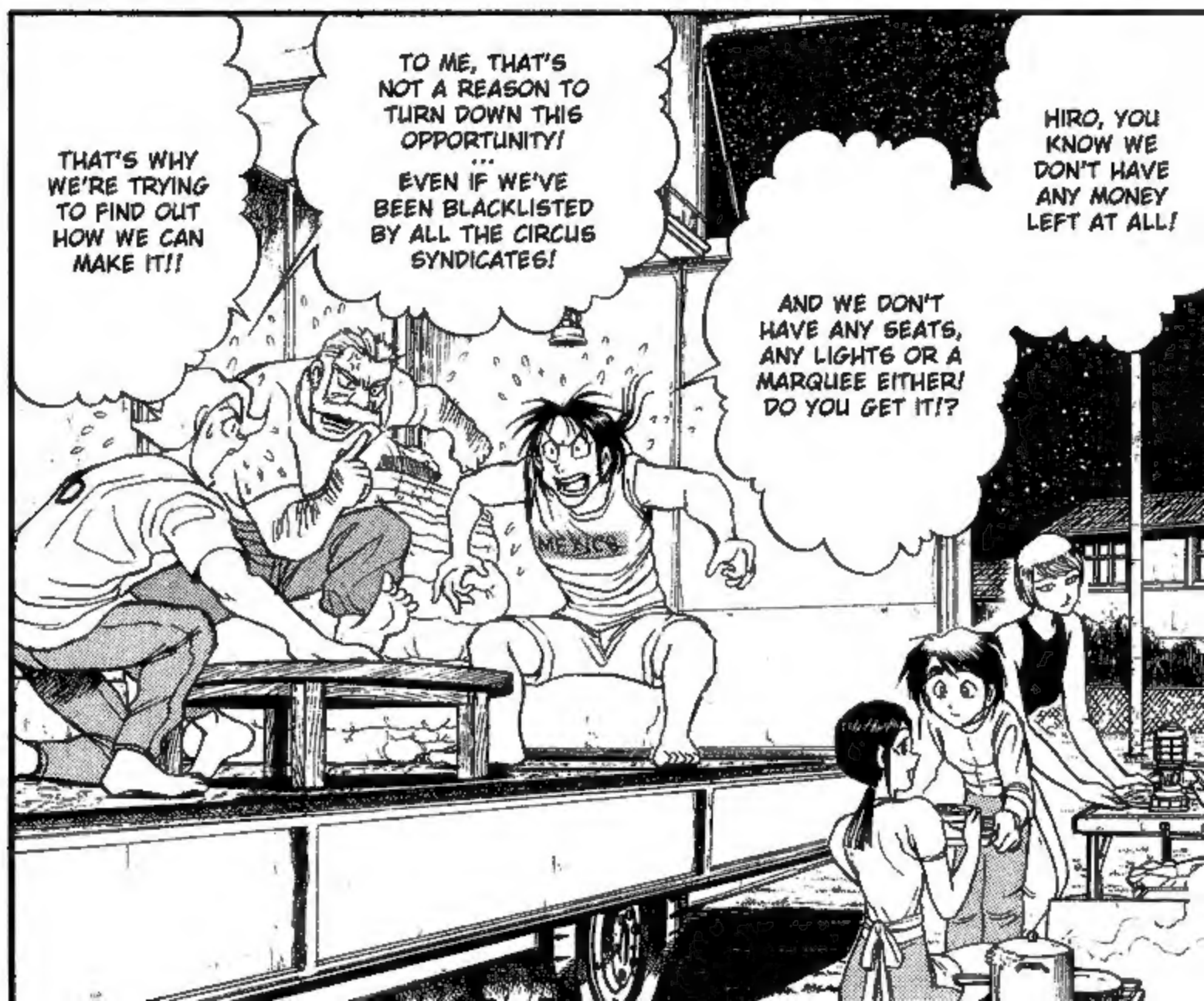
BLOP
BLUP



IF WE
WERE TO DO
THIS OUTSIDE,
WE WOULDN'T
HAVE ANY
SAFETY
ROPE
FOR OUR
BALANCING
ACTS.

VLM
VLM
VLM

PSCH
H
H
H



THAT'S WHY
WE'RE TRYING
TO FIND OUT
HOW WE CAN
MAKE IT!!

TO ME, THAT'S
NOT A REASON TO
TURN DOWN THIS
OPPORTUNITY!

...
EVEN IF WE'VE
BEEN BLACKLISTED
BY ALL THE CIRCUS
SYNDICATES!

HIRO, YOU
KNOW WE
DON'T HAVE
ANY MONEY
LEFT AT ALL!

AND WE DON'T
HAVE ANY SEATS,
ANY LIGHTS OR A
MARQUEE EITHER!
DO YOU GET IT?!



GOOD EVENING,
EVERYONE!
AS YOU CAN
SEE, THE
NAKAMACHI
CIRCUS IS
FACING A BIG
PROBLEM!

REAL FOOD!
MADE BY
SUPER CLITE
GIRLS!

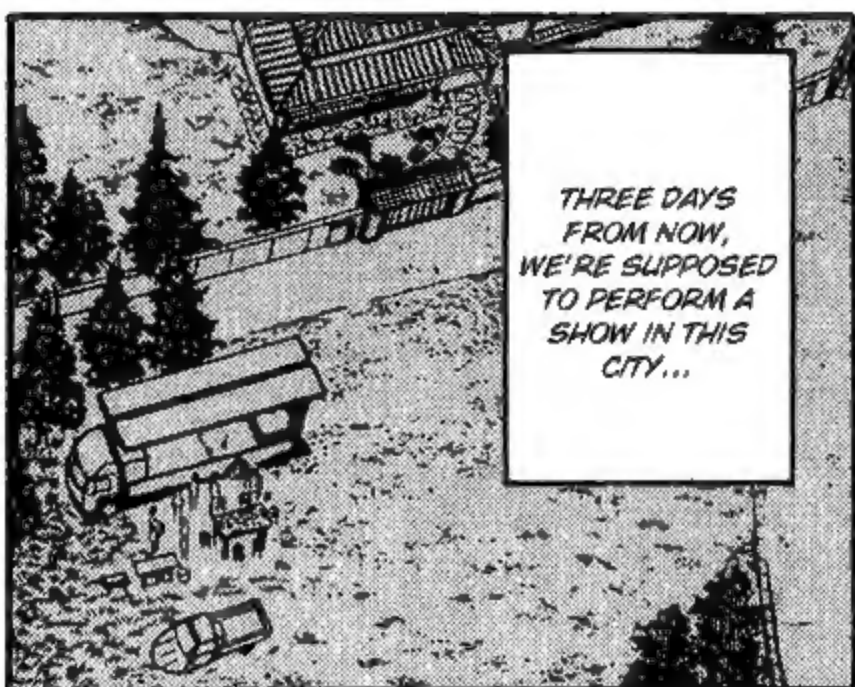
YEAH!

HE
HEE

DINNER'S
READY!



BUT WE STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHAT SHOW
WE'LL DO OR
HOW WE'LL
DO IT...



THREE DAYS
FROM NOW,
WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO PERFORM A
SHOW IN THIS
CITY...



MOST PEOPLE,
HEARING THIS
CONVERSATION,
WOULD THINK
"HEY, MASARU
SHOULD USE
THE MONEY HE
INHERITED!"



UNFORTU-
NATELY, TO
BRING HIS CAGE
AND TO TAKE
CARE OF HIM,
WE'D NEED
MORE MONEY
THAN WE
HAVE...

MAYBE I
COULD CALL
DRUM BACK.

THEY'RE
ALL VERY
TALENTED...
BUT THE
CIRCUS IS
COMPLETELY
BROKE.

That's
a real
problem



FOR NOW,
I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
MORE THAN
JUST LISTEN
TO THEM...

IF I WERE
TO USE MY
MONEY, I
WOULD HURT
THE NAKAMA-
CHIS' PRIDE.
THEY DON'T
HAVE ANY
MONEY BUT
THEY'RE BRAVE
AND HONEST!



BUT
SHIROGANE
TOLD ME
WE'D BETTER
NOT...



... EVEN THOUGH
I REALLY WANT TO
HELP THEM IN SOME
WAY OR ANOTHER!



NO!
BUSKERS
ALWAYS
MANAGE
TO MAKE A
CONSISTENT
SHOW, NO
MATTER HOW
MANY THEY
ARE.

BOSS! AT THAT
LITTLE PLACE,
WITHOUT ANY
EQUIPMENT... WE
ARE BUSKERS!!
WE CAN'T DENY
IT!



PERFORMING
IN THE STREETS
IS A BUSKER
THING!

IT'S OKAY...
EVEN IF WE
DON'T HAVE A
REAL MARQUEE,
I'D PREFER TO
MAKE A REAL
CIRCUS SHOW!



BUT... WE
DON'T HAVE
ANY MUSIC
OR LIGHTS!

THANKS
TO THE
SETTING?

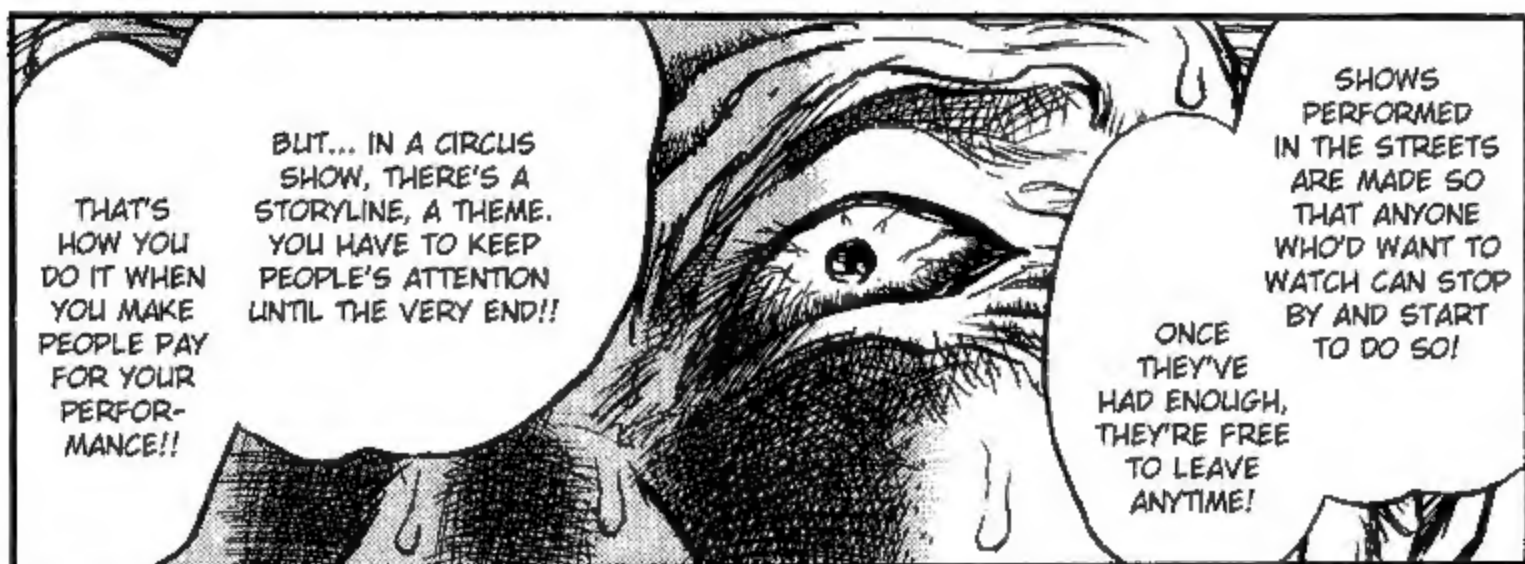
A
CONSISTENT
PROGRAM?

WE NEED TO
MAKE IT THROUGH
A CIRCUS SHOW IN
ORDER TO MANAGE
TO MAINTAIN SOME
CONSISTENCY IN
OUR PROGRAM
WITH ALL THE DIFF-
ERENT ELEMENTS
WE'VE GOT.

BUT, WE...
EACH ONE OF
US HAS HIS OWN
PECULIAR ABILITIES!
WE'D NEVER MAKE
SOMETHING
CONSISTENT
OUT OF IT!



THE
AUDIENCE
MUST NOT
LOSE THE
STORYLINE
OF OUR
SHOW!



THAT'S
HOW YOU
DO IT WHEN
YOU MAKE
PEOPLE PAY
FOR YOUR
PERFOR-
MANCE!!

BUT... IN A CIRCUS
SHOW, THERE'S A
STORYLINE, A THEME.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP
PEOPLE'S ATTENTION
UNTIL THE VERY END!!

SHOWS
PERFORMED
IN THE STREETS
ARE MADE SO
THAT ANYONE
WHO'D WANT TO
WATCH CAN STOP
BY AND START
TO DO SO!

ONCE
THEY'VE
HAD ENOUGH,
THEY'RE FREE
TO LEAVE
ANYTIME!



THE ARTISTS
CAME TO TAKE
THEIR TURNS,
ONE AFTER THE
OTHER... THE
ATMOSPHERE
WAS GETTING
TENSE, BUT WE
COULDN'T DO
ANYTHING!
BETWEEN
EACH
TURN, THE
DEEP
SILENCE
WOULD
MAKE THE
AUDIENCE
EVEN
COLDER
...

OUR GENERATING SET
FELL OUT OF ORDER
AND SO WE WERE
WITHOUT ELECTRICITY!
NO MORE MUSIC AND
NO MORE LIGHTS... WE
COULDN'T EVEN MAKE
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS
FOR OUR PERFOR-
MANCES WITH
A MIC!

WE HAD TO
OPEN UP A
LITTLE BIT OF
THE MARQUEE
TO LET SOME
LIGHT IN.



DOESN'T
IT, BOYS?

IT GETS
TERRIBLE WHEN
YOUR PERFOR-
MANCE DOESN'T
CATCH THE
AUDIENCE'S
ATTENTION!



WE'VE BEEN
IN THAT
SITUATION
ONCE
BEFORE...

YEAH...



THEY WERE
LOOKING
BORED AND
DEPRESSED
...

APPLAUSE
WAS RARE.

BUT
NO ONE
WOULD
MOVE.

WE
COULD
HEAR
PEOPLE
WHISPER-
ING IN THE
AUDIENCE,



WHOOAAAA!

WHAT A
NIGHT-
MARE!



YES?

...BY
THE WAY,
BOYS!



HMM!

WE'LL THINK
ABOUT THAT
TOMORROW.

OKAY...
ENOUGH
FOR TODAY!
LET'S GO
TO BED.



GONGGONGGONG!



MS. FUSAE'S
FATHER INSISTED
ON REWARDING
YOU WITH A
LITTLE MONEY...

TE-TE-TEN
THOUSAND
YEN?!?
WHERE DID
YOU GET
THAT,
BOSS?!

...TO THANK
YOU FOR
SAVING HIS
DAUGHTER.



SHIRO-
GANE!
LET'S
HAVE A
DRINK!

...SO I'LL
KEEP THE
REST FOR
NOW.

YEAH!!

IN FACT, HE
GAVE ME MORE
BUT I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
WASTE IT ALL
TONIGHT...

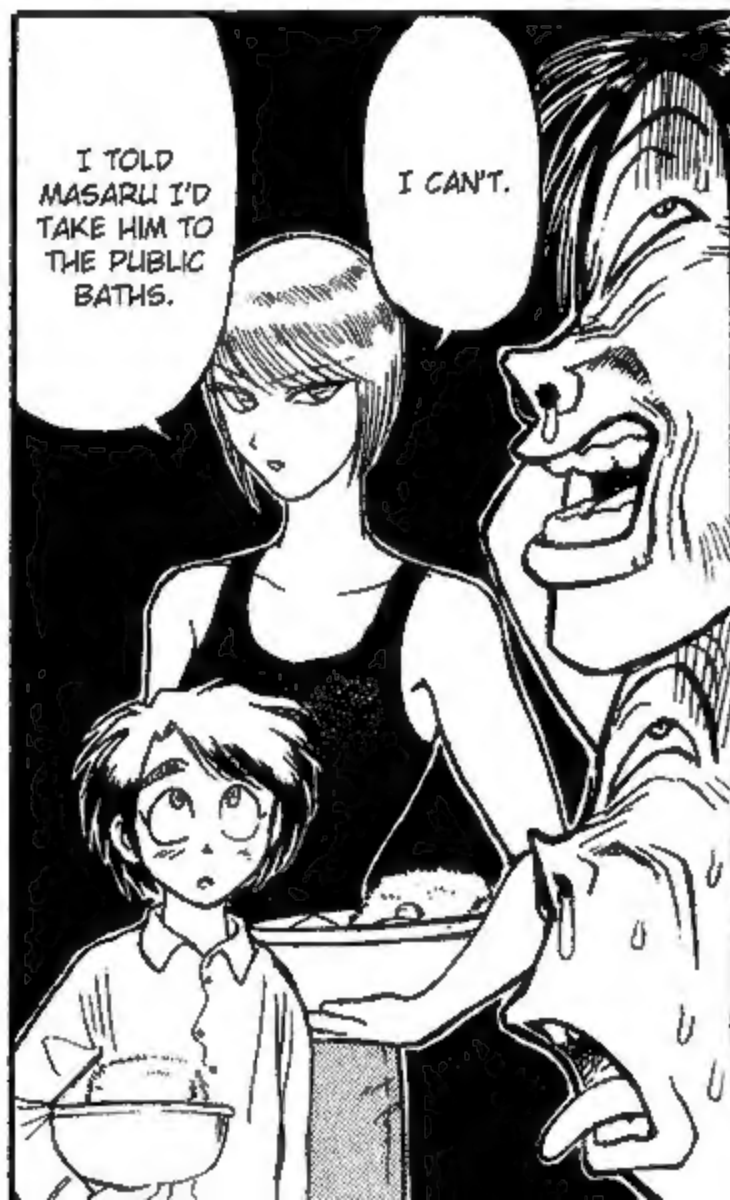
YOU'RE
NOT PAYING
ATTENTION!

MEXICO



...TO THE
PUBLIC
BATHS?!

LOING



I TOLD
MASARU I'D
TAKE HIM TO
THE PUBLIC
BATHS.

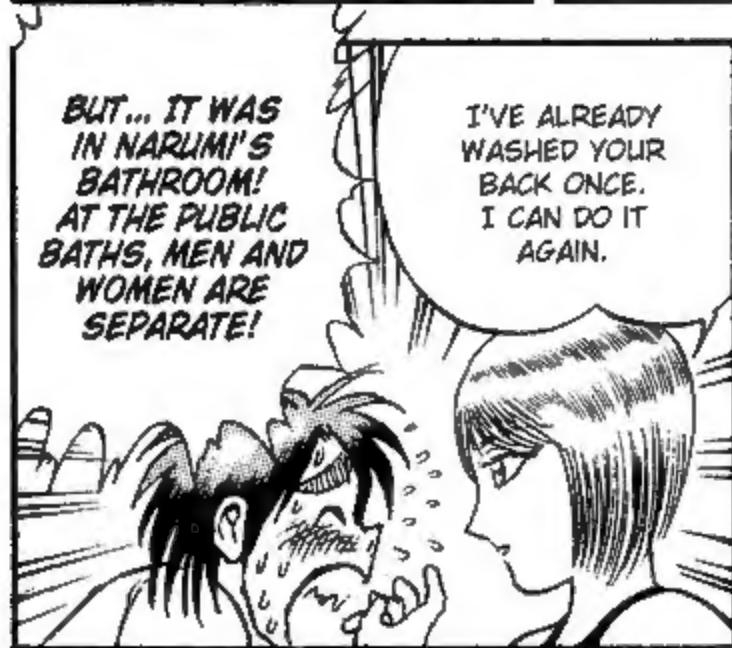
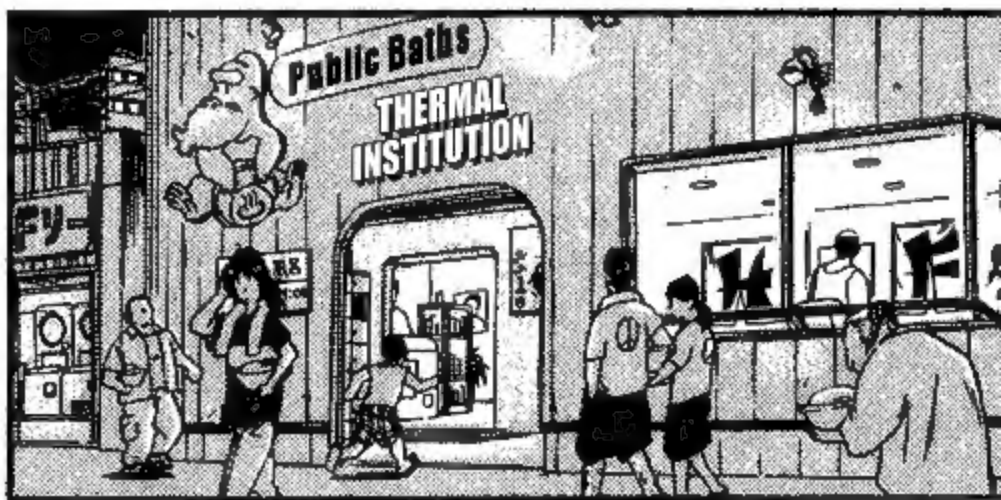
I CAN'T.

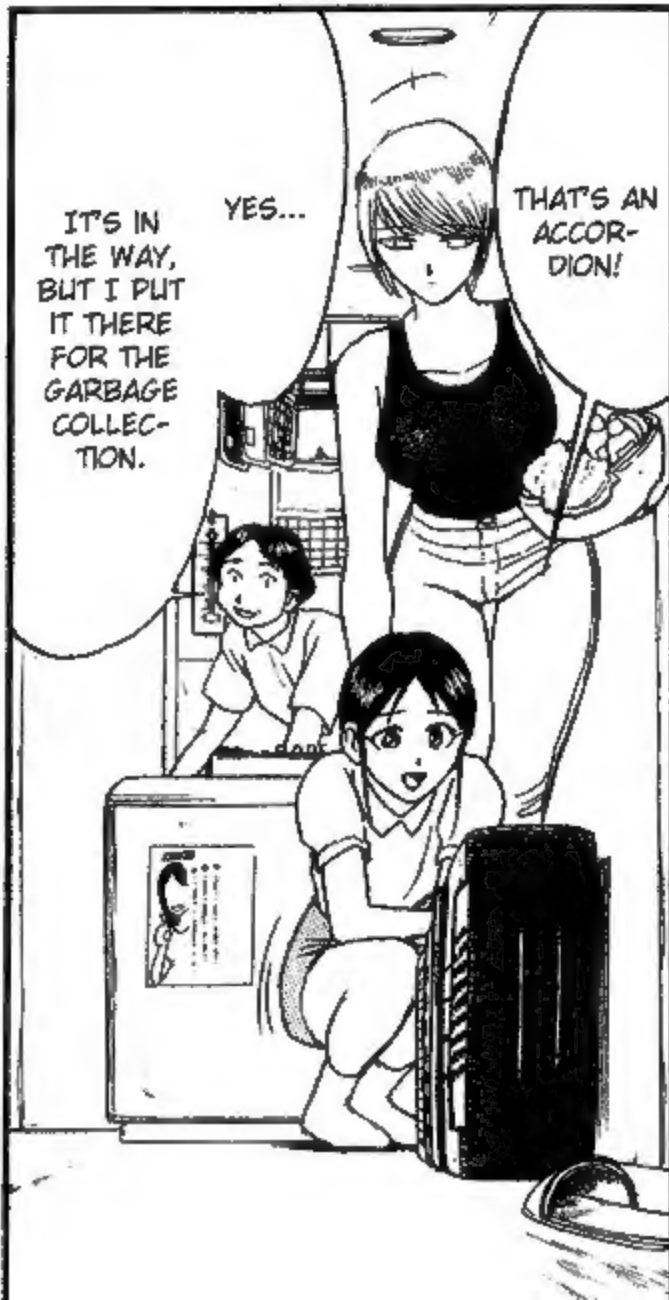


IS A
14-YEAR-OLD
GIRL ALLOWED
TO HAVE
ALCOHOL IN
JAPAN?

WHAT
ABOUT YOU
TARANDA?!

So,
you're only
14?!







HMM!

HMM!
FEELS
GOOD!

TAKING
A WARM
BATH...



WE DON'T HAVE
A PLACE OR
EQUIPMENT...

WHAT
CAN WE
POSSIBLY
DO FOR
OUR
CIRCUS?

DON DON







YOU
MANAGED
TO
CONQUER
YOUR
FEARS.
CONGRATU-
LATIONS.



I TOTALLY
LOST MY
SELF-
CONFIDENCE...
I EVEN
THOUGHT
I'D NEVER BE
ABLE TO DO IT
AGAIN.

HEY! BRAT!
YOU JUST
SPLASHED ME!

...
WHAT'RE YOU
GONNA DO
ABOUT THAT
NOW?!



OH? THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
SUPPORTED
SOMEONE
OTHER THAN
MASARU!

THANK YOU,
SHIRO-
GANE...



MASTER
!!



BRAT?!



SHIRO-
GANE!
NO!









I'LL BREAK
YOUR ARMS
IF I HAVE TO!
AM I CLEAR?



STOP IT,
SHIROGANE!



GET
AWAY
FROM
YOUNG
MASTER
MASARU
!!

DADAY



IT'S
OKAY!
THAT MAN
WASN'T
DOING
ANYTHING
BAD!

SHI-SHI-
SHIROGANE
?!??

BRAVO



